



KARO ECHO Newsletter

KARO ECHO

Serving the communities
of El Cerrito and
Kensington, California

Web: www.karoecho.net

Facebook:
[KARO ECHO facebook](https://www.facebook.com/KARO.ECHO)

Email: info@karoecho.net

Important Frequencies

KE Primary: 146.415 MHz
Weekly Net, Thurs. 1900

KE Secondary: 146.475 MHz

4Cs Repeater: 145.110 MHz
(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Monthly Meetings

In-person meetings

2nd Monday of each month
7:00 pm

Arlington Park Clubhouse,
(new location)
1120 Arlington Blvd,
El Cerrito, CA

The next meetings are:

Aug. 12th, 2019

Sept 9th, 2019

Meeting minutes are on
the website in the past
events page. Thank you to
Natalie KM6UCF.

What's New

KARO ECHO Meeting August 12, *New Time and Location*, 1900 in El Cerrito

Reminder that the KARO ECHO meeting time has been moved up to 1900 from the previous time of 1930. The location is now at the Arlington Park Clubhouse. The meeting will be held on Monday August 12 at Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd, El Cerrito, CA.

August 17th, 0900-1300, West County Radio Exercise

KARO ECHO operators and others are encouraged to participate in the radio communication exercise Saturday Aug 17th (0900-1300) that will include 4 simplex nets in West Contra Costa County (one is El Cerrito/Kensington on 146.415) as well as a regional repeater net, 444.27 (+) PL82.5, and relayed messages to the County in Martinez. The premise of this drill is to survey areas for fire hazards and pass traffic in the [form of ICS213](#) messages as a demonstration of communication from neighborhood ham operators (and FRS, GMRS), to the county using both voice and digital. More [details can be found at this link](#) and the [WA6KQB website](#). Contact DJ, KJ6DJ www.4cs.comm@gmail.com To participate, check-in to the net at 9am (or whenever you can) on the 4C's 440 repeater, 444.275 (+) PL82.5. If you are operating in El Cerrito or Kensington, you will then be given a tactical calsign and directed to the local simplex net on 146.415 where messages can be passed. The message content does not have to be accurate/factual, but operators are encouraged to prepare messages in [ICS 213 form](#) to pass as practice.

Ham License Class and VE exam in El Cerrito

KARO ECHO and the East Bay ARC (EBARC) will jointly sponsor a Technician license course taught by Ken Fowler beginning Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2019, weekly from 6:30-9pm. It will run for 10 weeks ending with a VE licensing exam on Nov. 13th (open to anyone who wants to take an exam or upgrade). The class is free. The textbook is The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual Revised 4th Edition. Books will be available for purchase. FCC examinations and license applications will be administered at the final class session by the EBARC Volunteer Examiners for a fee of \$15. Please register for the class by late August. More information at www.ko6no.com. Register through the website, or email: ko6no@comcast.net, or Contact Ken Fowler at 510-222-0830. The location for the class is in El Cerrito at the Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd. 94530

LOCAL NETS**KARO ECHO NET**

146.415 MHz Simplex

Thursday eve, immediately
after the West Contra Costa
RACES Net, but never before
1900 hours local time.

**West Contra County
ACS/RACES Net**

145.110 MHz repeater

(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Thursday: 1845 local time

**Contra Costa County HF
EmComm/RACES Net**

3893 KHz

Thursday: 1835 local time

**American Red Cross of the
Bay Area (ARCBA)**

WW6BAY Repeater

443.975 MHz

TX =5 MHz, PL 100 Hz

Wednesday: 2000 local time

BOARD OFFICERS

President: Hal KK6NDF

Treasurer: Larry KK6GIO

Secretary: Natalie KM6UCF

Vice President Pro Tem:

Don NI6A

Emergency Coordinator:

Jamuel KM6HBO

Exec Board Member at Large,
and newsletter editor:

Howdy KE6BEE

Webmaestro: Rob K6RJM

What's New *(continued)*

Action! - Take the CERT survey

El Cerrito/Kensington [CERT is conducting a survey](#) to help organize the trained CERT members in the community as well as recruit more. Please take this survey and spread the word about it to others in the community. It includes an opportunity to express interest in radio communications, as well as register for emergency alerts, get links to useful disaster related videos, and learn about local bulk purchase opportunities for disaster supplies like water storage containers. Every response helps our local CERT organization earn participation credits that qualify us for grant funding.

Antenna Patch Boxes for El Cerrito Clubhouses

The installation of antenna patch boxes on the Harding and Tassajara clubhouses (where rooftop antennas already are installed) is in the work queue for El Cerrito Public Work, but they are short staffed right now and further progress may be a few months out. Two patch boxes are built and ready to go. They each contain two separate coax connectors, as we also hope to add a separate FRS/GMRS antenna at these locations. If these installations go well, we may be able to explore install similar antennas and patch boxes at additional locations.

KARO ECHO Mobile Radio "Go-kit" Needs a Home

A fully featured mobile radio "go-kit" with large battery, antenna and accessories (including message forms and documentation) is available to be deployed somewhere in El Cerrito. We are looking for a secure but accessible storage location that has electricity for the battery float charger (although this could also be accomplished with a solar panel battery charger if the location receives a reasonable amount of sun). Ideally, we are seeking something like a lockable outbuilding in a backyard that could be easily reached in case of a disaster by more than one ham. If you have contacts with public or private schools (or other institutions like churches) in the city that might be able to accommodate the equipment, we would be willing to explore that option and provide some education (opportunity for licensing/training) to people associated with the host site. Contact info@karoecho.net if you have ideas on locating the radio go-kit.

SF Bay Regional Radio Communication Exercise, Nov. 16

A large radio communication exercise called "Light up the Bay," encompassing the whole SF bay area, is being planned for Nov. 16, save the date. Details are still developing. Contact: LightUpTheSFBay@gmail.com to get involved.

Activities

Weekly Net Control Rotation

Thanks go out to the 8 volunteer stations who have been taking turns at NCS since last fall. This rotation has been working very well and everyone has been doing a great job. After a few changes, the regular NCS roster will have 9 operators, Ken Gustafson (KK6SRD) will no longer be in the rotation, and we are adding Dave Roth (KM6TCB) and Karen Leong-Fenton (KK6ZPM). There are opportunities to fill in when a regular station has a scheduling conflict and there is always room to add more stations to the rotation. [Download the new Net Script for NCS operators.](#)

KE6BEE	Howdy Goudey	KE6HCE	Armando Picciotto
KK6NDF	Hal Graboske	NI6A	Don Simon
KM6HBO	Jamuel Starkey	KM6TCB	Dave Roth
KK6GIO	Larry Vanselow	KK6ZPM	Karen Leong-Fenton
K6RJM	Rob McNicholas		

Note the scheduled dates for each operator have changed as a result of the re-organization, so do not rely on the old table of dates. The KARO ECHO google calendar has been updated and the following is the revised date matrix.

Callsign	Name	Assigned Dates (skipped: 7/4/2019 and 11/28/2019)						
KE6BEE	Howdy Goudey	6/20/2019	8/29/2019	10/31/2019	1/16/2020	3/19/2020	5/21/2020	7/23/2020
KK6NDF	Hal Graboske	6/27/2019	9/5/2019	11/7/2019	1/23/2020	3/26/2020	5/28/2020	7/30/2020
KM6HBO	Jamuel Starkey	7/11/2019	9/12/2019	11/14/2019	1/30/2020	4/2/2020	6/4/2020	8/6/2020
KK6GIO	Larry Vanselow	7/18/2019	9/19/2019	11/21/2019	2/6/2020	4/9/2020	6/11/2020	8/13/2020
K6RJM	Rob McNicholas	7/25/2019	9/26/2019	12/5/2019	2/13/2020	4/16/2020	6/18/2020	8/20/2020
KE6HCE	Armando Picciotto	8/1/2019	10/3/2019	12/19/2019	2/20/2020	4/23/2020	6/25/2020	8/27/2020
NI6A	Don Simon	8/8/2019	10/10/2019	12/26/2019	2/27/2020	4/30/2020	7/2/2020	9/3/2020
KM6TCB	Dave Roth	8/15/2019	10/17/2019	1/2/2020	3/5/2020	5/7/2020	7/9/2020	9/10/2020
KK6ZPM	Karen Fenton-Leong	8/22/2019	10/24/2019	1/9/2020	3/12/2020	5/14/2020	7/16/2020	9/17/2020

Action Item: Help create a deep pool of skilled NC operators. Please contact Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net if you are interested in taking a net control assignment.

Volunteer Leads Needed

KARO ECHO is looking for someone seek out grant opportunities and write grant applications. This important job could really help expand the scope of our activities.

About KARO ECHO

KARO ECHO is the name of the Kensington Amateur Radio Operators and the El Cerrito Ham Operators mutual benefit association, an all-volunteer non-profit group of amateur radio operators providing auxiliary communications for the cities of Kensington and El Cerrito in the event of a disaster. KARO ECHO works with CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) in Kensington and El Cerrito, but is not an official part of the CERT program.

Monthly in-person meetings of KARO ECHO are on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd, El Cerrito, CA. The next meetings are:

- ♦ Aug. 12th, 2019
- ♦ Sept. 9th, 2019

Yearly dues are \$30/year for individuals, \$40/year for a family membership. Mail to:

KARO ECHO, PO Box 2025, 6324 Fairmont Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530-3651

Please see our website for more information: www.karoecho.net

You can contact the KARO ECHO board by email: info@karoecho.net

KARO ECHO Facebook

The [KARO ECHO Group on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/) has a lot of good information, more than is contained on our website. There is a whole wide world of emergency communications information at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/>. Check it out and be inspired of what we can do to help disaster victims in our community.

Weekly Training Net

The Karo-Echo Weekly Training Net meets every Thursday evening immediately after the West Co Co County RACES/ACS Net; but not before 1900 on 146.415 MHz Simplex. Details at <https://www.karoecho.net/events>

KARO-ECHO Frequencies

The KARO ECHO primary frequency is still 146.415 MHz simplex. **Our secondary frequency however has been changed to 146.475 MHz simplex** thus creating a 60 KHz spread between operating frequencies that will reduced adjacent frequency desensing.

KARO ECHO Dues

Action Item: Please send in your dues to KARO ECHO -- P.O. Box 2025 -- El Cerrito, CA. 94530-3651 or see Larry at this Monday's meeting at the Arlington Park clubhouse. You can still be a non-voting member of KARO ECHO without paying dues, but only licensed Amateur Radio Operators and dues paying members will be allowed to vote. So if you can't afford \$30 for full membership (or \$40) for family membership), please come and participate in any case. Dues cover our 510c3 registration, post office box, web page, station operating manuals and more. Your input on useful expenditures to aid emergency communications are welcome.

Outreach, Education and Licensing

Ham License Class and VE exam in El Cerrito

A Technician license course taught by Ken Fowler (EBARC) begins Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2019, weekly for 10 weeks from 6:30-9pm. A VE licensing exam will be held at the same location and time on Nov. 13th (open to anyone who wants to take an exam or upgrade). The class is free. FCC examinations and license applications will be administered by EBARC volunteer examiners for a fee of \$15. Register at www.ko6no.com, or email: ko6no@comcast.net, or Contact Ken Fowler at 510-222-0830. The location for the class is in El Cerrito at the Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd. 94530

KARO ECHO Ham Cram

The KaroEcho Ham Cram is still in development; but it will require more volunteers. So far Jamuel KM6HBO, Andy NG6W, David KJ6AAT, and Don NI6A have volunteered to help as Volunteer Examiners.

In the meantime the next VE session in El Cerrito will be held Nov. 13th (associated with a technician class), but an open opportunity for anyone who self studies to get their license or upgrade

We need to spread this and other efforts out to more members to avoid burning out our small and dedicated core. Please ask how you can help.

SET Video on YouTube

We are looking for volunteers to take the lead producing a video documenting the Feb 23 SET using assorted voice recordings, videos, photos, and narration. If you have any video editing or production skills (or you can recommend someone) please contact info@karoecho.net We need your help -- don't be shy.

CERT SET YouTube Video

See the CERT SET Youtube video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66DdgGLIn4c&list=PLROOaUIKdrEgSID1bQJZojW3PzfURoEY-&index=144&t=0s>

ELMERING

Elmering/Mentoring is available by request. Email info@karoecho.net

In the meanwhile, please check out the plethora of disaster radio communications topics at <https://www.karoecho.net> website and/or request specific literature to be created.

KAROECHO.Net Website

Especially, check out the EVENTS Page (<https://www.karoecho.net/events>) and the WORKSTREAMS drop-down menu which will lead one to an extensive training page that provides online learning at your own pace. Everything from the very beginning to advanced EmComm operations is detailed. The RESOURCE page has many excellent outside links.

- ◆ If you are on Facebook, contribute to the KARO ECHO Facebook Group Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/>
- ◆ If you haven't already filled out the JOIN form please do. Find it as a drop down menu under "Get Involved" See <https://www.karoecho.net/join>
- ◆ A follow-through novice primer has been put on the website for new hams once they have bought their radio and want to learn more. See: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10J-569BRrx5adhA-hJGPeNITU6B9Yi6z/view>
- ◆ Also a new Dual-Band antenna primer for new hams who want to graduate from the rubber-ducky world is at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u_ozABBRYDJDACFJRTV_rxWF1WjCgW_I/view
- ◆ Note that the Tram 1480 gain dual band antenna is currently still available for \$51 (no tax and free shipping) on ebay or from Home Depot. That and an inexpensive speaker tripod is a dynamite combination for portable operation. This antenna is equivalent to the Diamond X-200a antenna which sells at HRO for \$125.00 before taxes and shipping.
- ◆ For newbies, please visit <https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/training> and read the study materials. It is all there except for hands-on experience. Ask questions!
On every Thursday evening net there will be a training session and/or discussion. Summaries of recent net events are found under our past events page at <https://www.karoecho.net/events/past-events>
- ◆ Note: See the **KARO ECHO Agenda** for our upcoming Monday, August 12th, 2019 Meeting see: <https://www.karoecho.net/events> the agenda will be made available no later than the Sunday immediately preceding the meeting.
- ◆ All recent KARO ECHO **Minutes will be found at our Past Events page** We are now including past Executive Board Minutes as well. [Newsletters are on the Documents Page.](#)

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